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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 15, 1951 SS-103

Production Outlook Brighter

Crop prospects have improved. Favorable factors offset earlier adverse factors and prospects June 1, for the country as a whole, were about normal.

Another Billion-Bushel Wheat Crop Indicated

Wheat crop June 1 is estimated at 1,054 million bushels. Total last year, 1,027 million; average, 1,071 million. May weather helped winter wheat prospects on remaining acreage, although acreage losses, especially in the central and Southern Great Plains, had been heavy. Conditions for seeding and growth of spring wheat have been mostly favorable.

Big Spring Wheat Crop

Based largely on planted acreage, spring wheat crop is indicated at about 349 million bushels, compared with 276 million last year and 280 million average. Spring wheat acreage is a fifth larger than last year and the crop indicated is the largest in 36 years.

Corn Prospects Favorable

Corn crop prospects June 1 were generally favorable. Plantings neared completion in the major corn States...rapid progress made during the latter part of May. Production report on corn will be issued by BAE July 10. Much of the abandoned winter-wheat acreage is being planted to corn and grain sorghum.

Oats Forecast at 1.3 Billion Bushels

Oats crop, indicated at 1,341 million bushels. Compares with 1,465 million last year and 1,312 million average. Fall oats suffered winter damage and seeding of much of the spring crop was delayed. Conditions were more favorable, latter part of May, in most of the major producing areas.

Barley Production Down

Barley crop, estimated at 255 million bushels is smaller than the 301 million last year and 307 million average. Crop has improved from recent rains in the heavy producing West North Central areas.

Rye Crop Larger Than Last Year

Rye production is indicated at 24 million bushels, an improvement of a half million bushels from the May estimate. New estimate is 6 million bushels below 10-year average but tops last year by 824 thousand bushels.

Hay Crop Well Above Average

May weather favored the early cut of hay and heavy yields of good quality have been saved. A total of 107 million tons is now foreseen...about the same as in 1950, but well above average.

Better Pastures Than Usual

Pastures are supplying good to excellent grazing in all but the drier areas of the South. Condition is reported at 86 percent, better than the 85 average for June. Compares with 83 a year ago. Range pastures made fair to marked improvement during May in most portions, but feed is later than usual. Livestock are in good condition, except where ranges have been dry for a long period.

"All-Crop" Prospects by Regions

For the country as a whole, "all-crop" prospects are reported as about average. Prospects are good to excellent

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in most northern parts of the country. In the North Atlantic and North Central regions, prospects are reported better than average except in Kansas. Prospects in the South Atlantic region are about average, with South Carolina and Georgia below the fairly good level in other States. In the South Central States, prospects are rather uniformly below average. In the West, prospects are slightly below average, with those in New Mexico and California below the generally good level in other States.

Apple Crop May Be Smaller Than Last Year

Growers' reports indicate the '51 apple crop may be above average but somewhat smaller than last year. Crop is one to two weeks earlier than last year for most important commercial areas.

More Peaches Than Last Year

Peach crop is forecast at 65.5 million bushels. Compares with 53.5 million last year and 74.8 million in '49. Average crop is 71 million bushels.

Peach Prospects Better in Some Regions

The 10 Southern States expect a near average peach crop—about 3 times the short crop of last year. Western production is indicated about 12 percent above last year but 17 percent below '49. Middle Atlantic States expect more peaches than last year. Peach prospects in the Central States are very poor, only 44 percent of average.

Cherries Indicated at 224 Thousand Tons

Cherries are expected to total 224 thousand tons compared with 242 thousand last year and 186 thousand tons average. This year's production includes an estimated 155 thousand tons of sour cherries and over 68 thousand sweet cherries.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	May 15 1951	June 15 1951	June 15 1951
Wheat, bu.dol.	2.14	2.11	2.41
Corn, bu.dol.	1.62	1.64	1.75
Peanuts, lb.ct.	10.8	11.0	13.1
Cotton, lb.ct.	43.17	42.45	33.85
Potatoes, bu.dol.	1.12	1.09	1.80
Hogs, 100 lb.dol.	20.60	20.40	21.30
Beef cattle, 100 lb.dol.	30.20	29.50	19.80
Veal calves, 100 lb.dol.	33.90	33.20	22.10
Lambs, 100 lb.dol.	34.30	32.60	21.70
Butterfat, lb.ct.	1/ 68.7	1/ 73.4	76.7
Milk, whsle., 100 lb.dol.	1/ 4.65	1/2/ 4.70	4.79
Chickens, live, lb.ct.	29.3	28.9	31.3
Eggs, doz.ct.	1/ 49.5	1/ 52.0	52.8

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

2/ Preliminary.

Small Crop of Apricots

Apricots are estimated at 171 thousand tons, 21 percent below last year's crop and 22 percent below average. Crop this year is smallest since '43.

Pear Crop About Same as Last Year

The 31-million bushels of pears now indicated is about the same as last year and average. In '49, production totaled about 36 million tons.

Relatively Large Grape Crop

Grape crop is indicated larger than last year and near the large '48 crop. Great Lakes crop is down from last year; California crop much larger than year ago.

9 Percent More Oranges Than Last Season

The orange crop ('50-51 season) is now estimated at 113 million boxes, 9 percent larger than last season and 18 percent larger than average. About 31 million boxes of oranges remained to be harvested on June 1 compared with 26 1/2 million unharvested a year ago at this time.

A Fourth More Grapefruit Than Last Year

The estimated production of 45.9 million boxes of grapefruit is 26 percent above last season, but 10 percent less than average. Available for use June 1, about 4 1/2 million boxes. Last year at this time only 3 1/2 million remained available.

Potato Crop Off a Little

Condition of early potatoes is reported at 81 percent of normal. This is 2 points below June 1, '50 but 2 points above average. Condition is somewhat above average in New Jersey, Missouri, Kansas, Delaware, Virginia, South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Oklahoma, Texas and California; slightly above average in Maryland and Kentucky; about average in North Carolina and Louisiana and considerably below average in Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas. Condition is reported lower than a year ago in Virginia and an area including Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana.

Milk Production About Same as Year Ago

The 11.9 billion pounds of milk produced in May compares with 11.8 billion in May last year and is near average for the month. Production first 5 months totals 49.4 billion pounds 1 1/2 percent below a year ago for the same period.

Eggs Per Hen, All-time High

The 6.2 billion eggs laid in May was 1 percent less than in May last year but 3 percent above 10-year average. Production first 5 months of this year was 2 percent smaller than in the same month last year. The 18.3 eggs per layer in May is the highest for any month on record.

Hatchery Production Up Nearly a Third

Hatcheries produced 29 percent more chicks in May than a year ago, and a large June hatch is in prospect. About 36 percent more eggs were in incubators June 1 than a year earlier. Chicks hatched in May totaled 276,468,000. Strong chick demand for both broiler production and flock replacement.

More Young Turkeys Also in Prospect

About 7 percent more poults were hatched in May than a year earlier and 48 percent more turkey eggs were in incubators on June 1 than a year ago.

Business Continues Active

Employment and income continue high, supporting a strong demand for farm products and other services. The number of jobless is down to the lowest point in nearly 3 years. Steel output in May appeared slightly above the previous month. Motor vehicle output remained at about the March levels. Wholesale prices of all

commodities have been rather steady at a little below February levels. Inventories of goods in the hands of manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers are large.

Farm Income Estimates Up

Farmers' cash receipts from marketings to June 1 this year are estimated at 10.9 billion dollars, 19 percent above the first 5 months of last year. Marketings were a little lower, but higher prices than a year earlier more than made up the difference in cash receipts.

Prices Received Down Again

Prices received by farmers declined again in May. They have declined a little each month for 3 months. May index was 1 percent below April and 3 percent below February's record high. Main items lower in May were meat animals, strawberries, cotton, milk, wool, and wheat.

Prices Paid Down Slightly

Prices paid by farmers, including interest, taxes, and wage rates, were off slightly in May for the first time in several months. Index at 282 is 1 point below record high reached in April. Lower prices for feeder livestock and some seeds were only partly offset by increases in harvesting machinery, feed, and rural family living.

Farmers' Clothes Up 14 Percent

Prices of clothing bought by farmers averaged about 14 percent higher in May than a year ago. Retail prices paid for family living averaged 12 percent higher than a year ago.

Farm Employment Continues Below Year Ago

Number of people at work on farms totaled a half-million less in May than a year ago, and about 1 1/2 million less than the post-war peak in '46 and '47. Of the 11 million persons at work on farms about 8.7 million were farm operators and unpaid members of their families and 2.3 million were hired workers. A year earlier, the total was 11.5 million with about 9.1 million farm family workers and 2.4 million hired workers.

U. S. Employment Up

U. S. civilians at work in May (Census) totaled 61.2 million, up 1.2 million from April; May last year, 59.7 million. Unemployed 1.6 million, compares with 3.1 million year ago.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	May 1951
Prices received by farmers....	'10-14=100	305
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & farm wage rates.	'10-14=100	282
Parity ratio.....	'10-14=100	108
Wholesale prices of food.....	'10-14=100	1/ 291
Retail prices of food.....	'10-14=100	2/ 291
Farm wage rates.....	'10-14=100	3/ 479
Weekly factory earnings.....	'10-14=100	4/ 561
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-May 1950	Jan.-May 1951
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	50.1	49.4
Eggs, (bil.).....	29.5	29.0
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	5/ 2216	5/2165
Lamb & mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	5/ 180	5/ 156
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	5/ 3534	5/3841
All meats (dr. wt., mil. lb.)....	5/ 6130	5/6325
1/ Week ended nearest 15th of the month.		
2/ April figure.		
3/ April 1 adjusted for seasonal variation.		
4/ March figure.		
5/ Jan.-April under Federal inspection.		